

# CHAPTER TWO

## 1 JOHN'S VOCABULARY

1. A, I, The, You – these are the four most commonly used words in the English language. Other common words are: of, and, to, in, that, is, it, for, as.
2. There are **2519** words in I John, but **only 279 different words are used**.
3. Many of the words are monosyllabic.
4. Considering that the English language has about 800,000 words, the use of only 279 words in 1 John to teach us about the most important truths for this life and the hereafter is astonishing. Most words are simple enough for a child to understand; however, the writer of 1 John was able to use these few words to instruct us on some of the greatest theological truths in the Bible.
5. Words used only once in 1 John. Circle words for which you do not know the meaning.

- A.** abiding, according, acknowledgeth, advocate, again, agree, already, amen, an, antichrists, ashamed, assure
- B.** beareth, been, begat, behold, believed, bestowed, blinded, boldness, bowels, brother's
- C.** Cain, called, came, coming, can, cannot, casteth, cleanse, cleanseth, commit, compassion, concerning,
- D.** day, deed, desired, destroy, doubt, dwell
- E.** earth, error, ever, evil
- F.** faith, faithful, false, feareth, first, forgive, forgiven, full
- G.** give, ghost, goeth, gone, good, grievous
- H.** handled, hands, hate, hear, hearts, heaven, holy, hope
- I.** idols
- J.** joy, judgment, just
- K.** knew
- L.** lay, laid, lieth, like, live, looked
- M.** make, manner, marvel
- N.** name's, none
- O.** occasion ours, ourselves, own
- P.** passed, passeth, past, perceive, petitions, pleasing, pray, pride, promise, promised, prophets, purpose, purifieth
- R.** received, remain, remaineth
- S.** sake, saviour, seduce, seed, seeth, shew, shineth, shutteth, sight, sinned, speak, spirits, strong, stumbling
- T.** take, taught, teach, teacheth, testified, testify, thereof, those, through, tongue, torment, toucheth, transgression, transgresseth, truly, try
- U.** unction, understanding, until, up
- V.** verily, victory
- W.** walked, walketh, were, whereby, wherefore, whereof, whether, whither, wickedness, world's, would
- Y.** yet, yourselves

## 6. Insignificant Words?

Sometimes we do not appreciate having to use all the "little" words in the English language, such as *the, as, it, so*, etc. As you can see, the above list contains many important words, but try an experiment with them. Can you make someone understand what you are trying to say by using just those words alone, without all the other connecting words? Discuss the following quotations:

- ❖ Words are both better and worse than thoughts; they express them, and add to them; they give them power for good or evil; they start them on an endless flight, for instruction and comfort and blessing, or for injury and sorrow and ruin.
- ❖ Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.
- ❖ Know that although in the eternal scheme of things you are small, you are also unique and irreplaceable, as are all your fellow humans everywhere in the world.

## 7. Rarely Used Words in the Bible

(a) The following words appear only ONCE in the Bible and they are in I John:

Acknowledgeth (Acknowledge is used 16 times in the Bible)  
Advocate Antichrists Assure Unction World's

(b) The following words are found rarely in the Bible:

Handled: (only 3 times - once in I John)  
Propitiation: (only 3 times - twice in I John)  
Seduce: (only 3 times - once in I John)  
Stumbling: (only 4 times - once in I John)

8. Although the word **SALVATION** does not appear in 1 John, there are many verses in this small book which talk about the new life Christ gives to those who believe in Him. The word origin of the word **SALVATION** is most unique.

The word **SALVATION** is found 164 times throughout the Bible.

The word **SALVATION** originates from the word SALVER. In the middle ages, there could be poison in the food served, therefore a portion of each course was placed on a dish and then eaten by a SALVER. If poison was present, the SALVER was the one who died, thus sparing the life of the King or other dignitaries. In time, the word SALVER, came to mean a dish, rather than a person. Also related to this word is SALVE – a medication for wounds or sores.

Do you see a connection with Hebrews 2:9?

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels  
for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor;  
that he by the grace of God should **taste** death for every man.